

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
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25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) A hand-held power operated band saw manipulable by hand so as to be moveable in relation to a work piece for performing a cutting operation on the work piece using a closed loop saw blade having a substantially continuous cutting edge on at least one edge of the saw blade, the saw blade moveable in a path defined by the closed loop during the cutting operation, comprising:

a generally planar frame having a first end and a second end and a first side edge and a second side edge;

a throat extending inwardly of said first side edge of said frame intermediate said first and second ends;

a first wheel journaled proximate said first end of said frame for rotation about an axis generally normal to the plane of the frame and adapted to engage a portion of a continuous loop blade to be mounted thereon;

a drive assembly mounted to the band saw;

a second wheel journaled proximate said second end of said frame for rotation about an axis generally normal to the plane of the frame, coupled in drive relationship to said drive assembly, and adapted to engage a portion of the continuous loop blade to be mounted thereon;

a handle assembly extending outwardly from said frame intermediate said first and second ends at an angle relative to the plane of said frame and defining a grip portion extending longitudinally with respect to said frame between said axes and generally opposite said throat; and

a battery coupled to said handle assembly proximate said first end of said frame, said drive assembly includes a motor positioned proximate said second end of said frame, and the handle assembly grip portion is positioned between the battery and the motor.

27. (Original) The saw as defined in claim 26, further comprising a first and a second blade guide mounted on opposite sides of said throat for twisting a segment of the continuous loop blade to a predetermined angle.

28. (Original) The saw as defined in claim 26, further comprising a fence attached to said frame within said throat for engaging a work piece.

29. (Original) The saw as defined in claim 26, further comprising a skirt depending around substantially all of said frame but for said throat to permit the continuous loop blade to engage a work piece.

30. (Previously Presented) The saw as defined in claim 27, wherein said handle assembly extends outwardly from said second side edge of said frame at said predetermined angle.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Presented) The saw as defined in claim 26, wherein said battery is rechargeable having a chemistry selected from the group of nickel cadmium, nickel metal hydride, lithium, and lead-acid.

33. (Previously Presented) A portable hand-held power operated band saw manipulable by hand so as to be movable in relation to a work piece for performing a cutting operation on the work piece using a closed loop saw blade having a substantially continuous cutting edge on at least one edge of the saw blade, the saw blade moveable in a path defined by the closed loop during the cutting operation, comprising:

- a frame having a first and a second end and a throat defined therein intermediate said first and second end;

- a handle assembly extending outwardly from said frame;

- a battery pack positioned proximate said first end of said frame

- a drive wheel assembly, including a motor, mounted on said second end of said frame; and

- a driven wheel assembly mounted on said first end of said frame;

- the drive and driven wheel assemblies being adapted to receive the

continuous closed loop saw blade thereon such that a portion of the continuous loop blade transverses said throat defined by said frame;

the handle assembly including a grip portion extending generally longitudinally with respect to said frame generally opposite said throat and between the battery pack and the motor whereby the battery pack and the motor counterbalance to provide a saw balance point on the handle assembly grip portion intermediate the first and second ends of the frame to facilitate one hand operation of the saw.

34. (Cancelled)

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